

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 01672 160912Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----041535 160914Z /10

O 160821Z APR 78 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8342
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1672

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH NUJOMA

1. SECRETARY VANCE AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG, ACCOMPANIED BY SPAIN AND EDMONDSON, MET WITH SAM NUJOMA AND DAR ES SALAAM SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE KATAMILA FROM 0130 TO 0215 LOCAL TIME 16 APRIL. NOTING UNDERSTANDING OF NUJOMA'S CONCERN ABOUT WALVIS BAY IN CONNECTION WITH CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA, SECRETARY EXPLAINED COMMITMENT HE HAD MADE TO FRONT LINE AND NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVES DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO LAGOS THAT IF NUJOMA WOULD AGREE TO THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS, SECRETARY WOULD AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, PROBABLY WHEN THE MATTER WAS TAKEN UP AT THE UN, MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT SAYING THAT THE US
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FAVORED NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ON THE BASIS OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL (AS OPPOSED TO LEGAL) REASONS WOULD LEAD TO WALVIS BAY'S BECOMING PART OF NAMIBIA. SECRETARY SHOWED NUJOMA COPY OF DRAFT LANGUAGE THAT US IS PREPARED TO USE, ALLOWING KATAMILA TO MAKE NOTES. SECRETARY EMPHASIZED HE WAS SPEAKING ONLY FOR USG, THAT WHILE WE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH OTHER CG MEMBERS WHO WERE INTERESTED, US WAS PREPARED TO MAKE STATEMENT ON ITS

OWN.

2. NUJOMA STUDIES DRAFT CAREFULLY AND FOCUSED ON REFERENCE TO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. SWAPO NEEDS SOME SORT OF GUARANTEE, HE SAID, AND REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT SWAPO NEEDS A STATEMENT OR DECLARATION, PREFERABLY BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THAT WALVIS BAY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA. ALTHOUGH HE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO ARGUMENTS BY THE SECRETARY AND OTHERS ON THE U.S. SIDE ABOUT THE SERIOUS DANGERS OF ALLOWING ISSUE OF WALVIS BAY TO DELAY AND INEVITABLY MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE EARLY ACQUISITION OF NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE, NUJOMA CONSTANTLY RETURNED TO THE SAME THEME. CAUTIONED ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S POSSIBLE USE OF THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE TO JUSTIFY REJECTION OF CG PROPOSALS IN FAVOR OF EARLY STEPS TOWARD AN "INTERNAL SOLUTION," NUJOMA PROFESSED LITTLE CONCERN THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD SUCCEED, ARGUING THAT SWAPO HAD STRONG INFLUENCE IN NAMIBIA AND COULD KEEP 85 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE FROM GOING TO ELECTIONS SIMPLY BY TELLING THEM NOT TO GO.

3. AT ONE POINT NUJOMA SAID HE WOULD HIMSELF HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH PROPOSED US STATEMENT, BUT HE COULD NOT SPEAK ALONG. HE WAS SIMPLE MESSENGER OF THE SWAPO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COULD NOT GO AGAINST THEIR EARLIER DECISION THAT WALVIS BAY IS PART OF NAMIBIA; HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THEM. AMBASSADOR YOUNG POINTED OUT THAT SWAPO DID NOT NEED TO AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT, AND THE SECRETARY MADE CLEAR WE WERE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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SUGGESTING ANY KIND OF SECRET DEAL, BUT SIMPLY STATING THE KIND OF POSITION THE US COULD TAKE IN THE CONTEXT OF SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS.

4. NUJOMA ASKED WHETHER US COULD SUPPORT OR AT LEAST NOT OPPOSE A UN RESOLUTION DECLARING WALVIS BAY AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA. AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND OTHERS EXPLAINED THE TACTICAL PROBLEMS OF GETTING RESOLUTION 385 IMPLEMENTED, THE DANGER OF GETTING INVOLVED IN LEGAL ARGUMENTS OVER WALVIS BAY, AS OPPOSED TO PROGRESS TOWARD NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE, AND THE DANGER OF PROMPTING SOUTH AFRICA TO MOVE FORWARD WITH AN INTERNAL APPROACH.

5. REGARDING THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS THEMSELVES, NUJOMA COMPLAINED THAT FOUR MONTHS WAS TOO SHORT A PERIOD TO REGISTER VOTERS AND CARRY OUT ELECTIONS. HE SAID THE UN FORCES MUST NUMBER AT LEAST 5000, AND GENERALLY REPEATED POSITIONS EXPRESSED EARLIER IN LAGOS. THE AMERICAN SIDE AGREED THAT UN FORCES MUST BE ADEQUATE, WHATEVER THE NUMBER REQUIRED, WHICH COULD BEST BE DETERMINED BY THE UN SYG.

6. COMMENT: THERE WAS LITTLE POINT IN PRESSING NUJOMA FURTHER ON EITHER WALVIS BAY OR THE PROPOSALS THEMSELVES AS IT WAS

CLEAR HE WOULD ONLY ARGUE THE NEED FOR FURTHER STUDY AND CONSULTATION WITH SWAPO'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. IT ALSO SEEMED CLEAR THAT WE WERE UNLIKELY OURSELVES TO GET HIM TO CHANGE HIS POSITION THAT THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-B, MEETINGS, LIBERATION FRONTS, NEGOTIATIONS, NATIONALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DARES01672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS, CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780452/aaaabrvtel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 5f0c28ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2954327
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH NUJOMA
TAGS: PDEV, WA, US, SWAPO, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (YOUNG, ANDREW), (NUJOMA, SAM)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f0c28ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014